Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A metering blade suspension system, comprising:

a metering blade assembly, wherein the metering blade assembly comprises a metering blade mounted on a mounting bracket; and

at least one leaf spring connected to the metering blade assembly, wherein the at least one leaf spring is connected to a lateral end portion of the mounting bracket.

2. (Original) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein the leaf spring comprises a support arm for the blade assembly.

3. (Original) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein the leaf spring comprises an electrically conductive material.

4. (Original) The suspension system of claim 3, wherein the electrically conductive material comprises metal.

5. (Currently Amended) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein said at least one leaf spring comprises a pair of leaf springs disposed at opposite end portions of the mounting bracket.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein the leaf spring controls at least one of an angle, a position and a load of the metering blade.

8. (Original) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein the metering blade assembly pivots on the at least one leaf spring.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein the at least one leaf spring comprises a grounding path for bleeding static charge from the metering blade assembly.

11. (Original) A drum maintenance unit, comprising the metering blade suspension system of claim 1.

12. (Original) The drum maintenance unit of claim 10, wherein the at least one leaf spring secures the blade assembly in the drum maintenance unit.

13. (Original) A removable cassette for an imaging apparatus, comprising the drum maintenance unit of claim 10.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of supporting a metering blade assembly in a drum maintenance unit, comprising connecting at least one leaf spring to the metering blade assembly, and securing a tab portion of the at least one leaf spring to the drum maintenance unit.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the at least one leaf spring comprises a pair of leaf springs disposed at opposite ends of the metering blade assembly.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the at least one leaf spring controls at least one of an angle, a position and a load of a ~~the~~ metering blade of the metering blade assembly.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the metering blade assembly pivots on the at least one leaf spring.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the at least one leaf spring comprises a grounding path for bleeding static charge from the metering blade assembly.

21. (New) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein the at least one leaf spring is connected to the lateral end portion by a crimp.

22. (New) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein the at least one leaf spring further includes a tab portion for securing the blade assembly in a drum maintenance unit.

23. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the metering blade assembly comprises a metering blade mounted on a mounting bracket, and wherein the connecting comprises connecting the at least one leaf spring to a lateral end portion of the mounting bracket.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the connecting comprises crimping a portion of the at least one leaf spring to the lateral end portion of the mounting bracket.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 1 and replaces the original sheet with Figs. 1 and 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet